(b) what are the programmes, if any, for the development of small hydro power projects and how far these programmes have been implemented so far;

(c) whether the progress made in the development of small hydro power projects so far has been unsatisfactory;

(d) whether inordinate delays on the part of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in clearance of the projects is one of the cause for holding up of such projects; and

(e) what measures are being contemplated by Government, for the development of hydro power projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The potential in respect of small hydro power projects upto 15 MW capacity has been estimated so far, to about 8822 MW comprising 4191 schemes. The installed capacity of small hydro projects upto 15 MW is 500 MW comprising of 381 schemes.

(b) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a broad based programme for the development of small hydro power projects. The programme includes resource assessment, Research & Development, demonstration projects and promotion of commercial projects. 381 small hydro power projects aggregating to 500 MW have already been installed in various parts of the country.

(c) and (d) The progress of implementation has been somewhat slow due to low priority for small projects by State Electricity Boards, inadequate State Plan allocations and difficult terrain, inaccessible sites, and delays in forestry clearances particularly in the hilly areas and North Eastern region.

(e) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources provides financial assistance for undertaking feasibility studies and implementation of projects, both in Government and private sector. Guidelines have been issued to States for announcing policies to attract private investments for commercial projects. Fiscal incentives such as concessional customs duty, excise duty exemption, five year tax holiday, etc., are also being extended. Soft loans are available from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency. As a result of this, there is an increase in private sector participation in such projects. A Hilly Hydro Project with partial UNDP/GEF assistance and a Pilot Project on portable microhydel sets are also being implemented pertaining to smaller, community based off-grid projects. These measures will help in development of small hydro projects in India.

Delay in Implementation of Power Projects by Foreign Promoters

4389. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign promoters seeking a foothold in the Indian power sector, have sunk a sizable amount of crores without much headway;

(b) whether only one project has entered the construction stage so far;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether foreign power promoters have identified several factors responsible for the long delays and slow downs in implementation; and

(e) if so, what remedial steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per information available, of the 95 proposals for setting up of power projects in the private sector on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU/ Letter of Intent (LoI), etc. route (costing more than Rs. 100 crores), the projects on the above mentioned route which have commenced partial generation are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Total Capacity (MW)	Capacity commissioned (MW)
i.	Hazira Combined Cycle Gas Turbine	515	3×110
ii.	Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine	216	3×45.8
iii.	Godavari Combined Cycle Gas Turbine	208	45.8

(c) Does not arise in view of reply (b) above.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, the reasons for a large number of the sanctioned projects failing to come up is on account of the private promoters not being able to tie up various inputs/ linkages and achieve financial closure. The Government has been monitoring the progress of these projects from time to time through periodical meetings with the private promoters, concerned State Government/State Electricity Boards, Central Electricity Authority and the concerned Ministries/ Department of the Government of India and providing assistance to them in obtaining necessary inputs/ clearances.

Financial Assistance for Rural Electrification

4390. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to States for rural electrification, with a view to utilise ground water resources through energisation of pumpsets during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of villages in Andhra Pradesh covered under this programme and the number of pumpsets energised as a result thereof; and

(c) the quantum of assistance proposed to be given to States, for these schemes during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No separate allocation of funds is made for pumpsets energisation. However, the State-wise funds disbursed by the Rural Electrification Corporation during the last three years for rural electrification including village electrification, pumpset energisation and load intensification, etc. are given in the enclosed Statment-I (*See* below)

(b) In March, 1990, Andhra Pradesh declared its villages as cent percent electrified. As regards energisation of pumpsets, during the last three years, upto November 1996, 2,32,061 pumpsets have been energised in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has proposed an outlay of Rs. 775 crores for the financial year 1997-98. State-wise details are given at Statement-II (*See* below).